

OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. JOHN A. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1, HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, 23 JULY 1963.

Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to appear before you to open the Hearings on H. R. 7216, the Bill to amend the Central Intelligence Act of 1949 in the manner which will be discussed in detail by me and my Deputy, General Carter, and other representatives of the Agency. It will be my pleasure to introduce them.

(INTRODUCE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT)

I have now been associated directly with the Central Intelligence Agency for almost two years and have been Director since the 29th of November, 1961. During the period of my service with Secretary Forrestal in 1947 and 1948, as Under Secretary of the Air Force, 1950-1951, and more recently as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission 1958-1961, I naturally had a very considerable contact with the Agency. Hence through direct participation in recent years and through a less intimate but still important contact over a long period of time, I have been able to personally evaluate the quality, integrity and the dedication of the employees of the Agency. It is my belief that the caliber of the personnel of the Agency is unequalled in any other Agency of Government and, for that matter, any private industry with which I have been associated. I can say very frankly I have never been surrounded by a group of men of greater intellectual quality or more sincere dedication of purpose than the men associated with me in the Central Intelligence Agency. For the most part the senior men and women in the Agency possess most unusual academic background and in addition a high degree of professionalism gained through uninterrupted service extending over a great many years with CIA

and its predecessor organizations.

With world conditions as they are, and in view of the serious responsibilities assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency by law or by Presidential Directive, I believe it essential that the superb quality of men and women in CIA be maintained and indeed be improved and moreover that the dedication of these employees be recognized by the provision of adequate benefits.

I believe that the enactment of this legislation will be a positive step in this direction. The legislation will significantly improve the career structure of the Agency and will permit greater efficiency in personnel management of the Agency.

As this Committee knows, this legislation is designed to establish a Central Intelligence Agency retirement system which will be similar to the retirement system of the Foreign Service, which extends to personnel of other Departments of Government who operate extensively abroad. This retirement system differs importantly from that of the Civil Service, which is designed to meet the requirements of domestic employment.

Other provisions of the Bill are mainly technical in nature and merely bring the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 in line with authorities already existing in the Foreign Service Act. Some of these arrangements are new to CIA, but none is new in Government, and there are precedents for each one as will be shown in today's presentation.

The task of the Central Intelligence Agency is a most serious and difficult one. We are charged by law with the responsibility of furnishing to the President and his policy advisors evaluations concerning the intentions of other countries, most particularly of the Communist Bloc. Upon these evaluations hinge a great

many basic decisions which affect the security and the future of the United States and, for that matter, the Free World. We in the Government can afford nothing less than the best in the personnel who shoulder this responsibility and this proposed Central Intelligence Agency retirement system will do a great deal in maintaining the quality of that which we now have and in encouraging its continual improvement. I therefore heartily endorse this legislation and I urge its early and favorable consideration by the Congress.

As this Committee knows, Lt. General Marshall Carter, Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, serves as the general manager of the Central Intelligence Agency. This is a necessary arrangement if I, as the President's principal intelligence officer, am to be free to consider problems of the Intelligence Community as a whole. He therefore is the man in CIA most familiar with all of the details of this legislation and best equipped to present the matter to you and to answer your questions. However, this is a subject which has been close to me in CIA and in the State Department when I was studying the problem as a member of the Secretary's personnel policy committee and in the Defense Department as well. In introducing General Carter and asking that he continue this presentation, I wish to assure you of my support of this legislation and my desire to answer any questions you may care to direct to me.